CLAIMS

1.   A method for controlling the communication functionality of a mobile phone comprising:

-   providing (104) configuration data;
-   receiving (108) configuration data; and
-   controlling (110) the availability of the voice transmission functionality of the mobile phone according to the configuration data.

2.   A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the configuration data is received via the user interface of the mobile phone.

3.   A method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the configuration data is received via a network serving the mobile phone.

4.   A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the availability of the voice transmission functionality is controlled by impeding access to said functionality.

5.   A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein impeding comprises prompting the use of an alternative transmission functionality.

6.   A method as claimed in Claim 4 or 5, wherein impeding comprises delaying access to the voice transmission functionality.

7.   A method as claimed in any of preceding Claim, wherein the availability of the voice transmission functionality is controlled in accordance with a pre-determined budget.

8.   A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the budget is the time duration of voice calls using the mobile phone.

9.   A method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the budget is based on the time duration of voice transmission from the mobile phone.

10.   A method as claimed in Claim 8 or 9, wherein the time duration is measured over a pre-determined time interval.

11.   A system for controlling the communication functionality of a mobile phone comprising:

- an interface (202, 204) arranged to enable a controller to input configuration data;

- a data terminal (208) operable to receive the configuration data from the interface and to communicate the configuration data to a network;

- a network (210) comprising a base station (212) operable to receive the configuration data and to communicate with a mobile phone; and

- a mobile phone (214) operable to communicate with the base station and to control the availability of its voice transmission functionality according to the configuration data.

12.   A system as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the interface is a Web form running on a Web browser, the input configuration data comprises data within the Web form, and the data terminal is further operable to extract the data within the Web form and to compose a data message comprising corresponding configuration data for the network.

13.   A system as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the interface is a telephone (204), the input configuration data comprises a verbal command, and the data terminal is further operable to transcode the verbal command to a data message comprising corresponding configuration data for the network.

14.   A mobile phone comprising:

- a user interface arranged to enable a controller to input configuration data; and

- a processor operable to receive the configuration data from the user interface and to control the availability of the voice transmission functionality of the mobile phone according to the configuration data.

15. A record carrier comprising software operable to carry out the method of any of claims 1 to 10.

16. A software utility configured for carrying out the method steps as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10.

17. A mobile phone for use in a system as claimed in any of Claims 11 to 13 and operating under control of a software utility as claimed in Claim 16.